

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing communication terminals with information on a shop through communication, said system comprising:

a first storage portion for storing data of a plurality of shops, said data of the shops including delivery area information on delivery areas of the shops;

an acquisition portion for acquiring first location information on a location of a first communication terminal;

a processing portion for searching for a shop a delivery area of which includes the location of the first communication terminal based on the stored delivery area information and the received first location information; and

a transmission portion for transmitting a result of the search by the processing portion to the first communication terminal.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission portion transmits the result of the search by the processing portion also to a second communication terminal different from the first communication terminal.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the result of the search includes a list of retrieved shops.

4. A system according to claim 3, further comprising a reception portion for receiving from the first communication terminal a narrowing criterion for narrowing the data of the shops, wherein when the reception portion receives the narrowing criterion, the processing portion searches the list of the retrieved shops for a shop meeting the narrowing criterion with reference to the data of the shops, and the transmission portion also transmits a result of the search to the first communication terminal.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein the delivery area information includes information on an area where the shop can make delivery within a predetermined time.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein the narrowing criterion relates to the predetermined time.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the result of the search by the processing portion includes a list of names of shops delivery areas of which include the location of the first communication terminal, the transmission portion transmits the list to the first communication terminal, and the transmitted names of the shops have link information on links to sites of the shops on a network.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the acquisition portion acquires second location information on a location of a second communication terminal different from the first communication terminal.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein the data of the shops includes, when the shops are chain stores, information for identifying chains to which the shops belong, and the processing portion searches for a shop a delivery area of which includes the location of the first communication terminal and a shop a delivery area of which includes the location of the second communication terminal which shops are chain stores of the same chain based on the stored delivery area information, the information for identifying chains, the acquired first location information and the acquired second location information.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the data of the shops includes, when the shops are chain stores, information on merchandise handled by the shops, and the transmission portion transmits a list of merchandise handled by both of the shops to the first communication terminal and the second communication terminal.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first location information is an address of the location of the first communication terminal.

12. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first location information is a longitude and a latitude of the location of the first communication terminal.

13. A system according to claim 1, wherein the acquisition portion acquires the first location information by receiving the first location information transmitted from the first communication terminal.

14. A system according to claim 1, further comprising: a second storage portion in which user information for identifying a user is stored, said user information including location information on a location of the user's communication terminal; and a reception portion that receives information for identifying a first user from the first communication terminal, wherein the acquisition portion acquires the location information of the communication terminal by referring to the user information corresponding to the received information.

15. A method for providing a communication terminal with information on a shop through communication by use of a system

in which data of a plurality of shops including delivery area information on delivery areas of the shops is previously stored, said information providing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring location information on a location of the communication terminal;

based on the delivery area information of the shops and the received location information, searching for a shop a delivery area of which includes the location; and

transmitting a result of the search by a processing portion to a first communication terminal.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the location information is acquired by receiving the location information from the communication terminal.

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein in the system used, user information for identifying a user and including location information on a location of the user's communication terminal is stored, and the location information of the communication terminal is acquired by receiving the information for identifying the user from the communication terminal and referring to the user information corresponding to the received information.

18. A display control method in which a server to which

09852844-05101

a first communication terminal and a second communication terminal are connected so that communication can be performed between the server and the terminals controls at least a display portion of the first communication terminal, said display control method comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction from the second communication terminal;

receiving first information from the first communication terminal in response to reception of the instruction;

processing data stored in the server based on the received first information; and transmitting the processed data at least to the first communication terminal, wherein the first communication terminal displays the received information on the display portion thereof in response to reception of the processed data.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the stored data includes data of a plurality of shops, the data includes area information on areas where the shops can make delivery within a predetermined time, the received instruction is on the predetermined time, the received first information is on a location of the first communication terminal, the processed data is a list of shops capable of making delivery to the location of the first communication terminal within the specified predetermined time, and on the first communication terminal,

the list of the shops capable of making delivery within the specified predetermined time is displayed.